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*The Peasants' Rising and the Lollards.* A Collection of Unpublished Documents forming an Appendix to "*England in the Age of Wycliffe.*" Edited by EDGAR POWELL and G. M. TREVELYAN. (London and New York : Longmans, Green and Co. 1899. Pp. xiii, 81.)

THE names of Messrs. Powell and Trevelyan will give a ready reception to any work connected with the rising in 1381. The former hunted out and transcribed these documents in the Public Record Office, while his colleague seems to have attended to the critical apparatus. The introduction contains a brief but good summary of the evidence contained in the documents, which are, for the most part, jury indictments, chiefly concerned with the Revolt, the trial of John Northampton, and the history of the Lollards, 1382-98.

The documents on the Revolt form an important supplement to what has already been published. It is interesting to learn that as early as June 6 and 7, the Rebellion was raging at Dartford (p. 6). That excellent reformer, Bishop Brunton, of Rochester, appears in the rolls as having, on June 12, been insulted and halted by the insurgents between Deptford and London. He bore a message from Tyler to the King ; for we learn that he had been summoned to the rebels' camp at Blackheath, where Tyler eloquently represented their grievances, and sent him to tell them to Richard II.<sup>1</sup>

The rising of the tenants of Chester Abbey in the Wirral shows how even the remotest districts were infected. Besides Chester, the names of four other religious houses are added to the long list of those injured by the rebels,<sup>2</sup> further emphasizing a general uprising against the monasteries as an important phase of the revolt. The interesting popular song of the Yorkshire rebels in 1398 (pp. 19-20) is the more noteworthy because of its resemblance to Ball's compositions in 1381.

The inquisitions taken at the trial of John Northampton, Mayor of London for two years following the revolt, are the chief source of our knowledge of the bitter civic conflict in which he was the leading figure. The economic feature of this conflict has, I think, been too little emphasized. It was simply the struggle of the community against the vintners' gilds, which controlled its food supply, a struggle experienced by most other English towns. Against these powerful gilds, which were backed by the crown, Northampton led the people. Even in this hostile testimony he appears in a favorable light, and when we consider how his re-election was forcibly hindered in 1383, the wonder is that he was as moderate. I cannot agree with the editors that in order to curry popular favor he procured the acquittal of the rebel aldermen Syble and Horne.

<sup>1</sup> P. 7 ; cf. *Eulogium Historiarum sive Temporis* (Rolls Series), III. 352.

<sup>2</sup> For Chester, see pp. 13-16. Combewell Priory in Kent and Grace Abbey in Middlesex suffered at the hands of insurgents, while the enumeration of the tenants of the Abbess of Malling among the indictments point to difficulties with the peasantry ; pp. 3, 10, 17.

The documents relating to the Lollards show the rapid spread of their tenets during the reign of Richard II. and overturn the traditional idea that the King favored them. The most interesting of these documents is an English complaint against John Fox, mayor of Northampton, which reveals a town practically Lollard in defiance of the bishop of Lincoln. It is difficult to see, however, why in a collection of documents hitherto unpublished, the editors should find place for an abbreviated form of three which are fully given in Rymer's *Foederi*, one of them even in the *Patent Rolls*.<sup>1</sup> Nor is there room in such a collection for the two last documents given, which refer to the great schism, and not to Lollardry (pp. 53-54).

The Return as to Foreign Clergy in England, chiefly in 1377, and a valuable table showing the change of personnel in the House of Commons, 1376-1384, complete the work. The former seems incomplete, such dioceses as Durham, Salisbury, Bath and Wells being entirely omitted, while the number of foreigners in most of the others is surprisingly small. I doubt the advisability of using Latin and Old English forms of local names in modern English extracts.

On the whole the volume is a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the later fourteenth century. It is to be regretted, however, that the text of the jury indictments is not oftener given in full. In case of those of 1381 there is constant omission of the names of the jurors, whose attitude can often be established, and is of fundamental importance for the value of the accusation. In one English extract we are told that Walter Tyler, of Colchester, and others, were the first disturbers of the peace at Maidstone (p. 9). Confirmed by the statements of other Kentish indictments and of a contemporary chronicle that Tyler was an Essex man, this entry establishes the identity of the chief of the insurrection,<sup>2</sup> beside throwing light on the influence of John Ball, likewise of Colchester. From other evidence I had already concluded that the latter had for years been preaching and organizing the rebellion from Colchester as a centre, and that to him more than any other man its origin was due. No matter how injured the skin, every word of this precious indictment should have been printed in the original Latin. We should know much more about the revolt in 1381 if there were less of such abbreviated documents in the works of Réville and Powell, as well as in the valuable work now before us.

GEORGE KRIEHN.

*The Stones of Paris in History and Letters.* By BENJAMIN ELLIS MARTIN and CHARLOTTE M. MARTIN. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1899. Two vols., pp. x, 269; viii, 292.)

THERE is little in modern Paris which recalls the older town. The baths inclosed in the Cluny museum and the Arena near Rue Monge are

<sup>1</sup> Viz., the order to expel heretics from Oxford, another order to remove Robert Lychlade and others, and instructions to the university relative to a letter of the French king about the schism. Cf. pp. 41, 52-53, with Rymer's *Foedera* (Hague), III. iii. 141; III. iv., 109, 153; *Patent Rolls*, 6 Richard II., 153.

<sup>2</sup> *Archæologia Cantiana*, III. 92-93; *Eulogium*, III. 352.